

Remarks

Claims 1-17 and 19- 21 were pending.

Claims 1-5, 9, 11, 13, and 14 are original.

Claims 6-8, 10, 12, 15 and 21 are as previously presented.

Claims 16 and 17 are cancelled.

Claims 19 and 20 are withdrawn.

The application now contains claims 1-15, 21 and withdrawn claims 19 and 20.

No new matter is added.

Restriction

Applicants hereby confirm the election of Group A, Claims 1-15 and 21 (claims 16 and 17 are cancelled) drawn to a process for preparing a strongly adherent coating. Applicants respectfully point out that the coating of claim 20 is prepared according to claim 1 and as such is a product produced by the process of the elected invention. According to PCT rules, unity of invention is afforded a process and a product of the process should they be linked by a common inventive feature. Applicants believe that the process of claim 1 is novel and non-obvious as detailed below and kindly ask that the Examiner rejoin claims 19 and 20 upon finding the process of claim 1 allowable.

Rejections

Claims 1-6, 8-11 and 21 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Bauer, US 6,548,121.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Bauer discloses a process for coating a substrate in which a substrate is pre-treated with plasma, corona or a flame treatment prior to the application of photo initiator compounds containing ethylenically unsaturated groups which are then allowed to react with the pretreated surface to form a primer layer onto which is deposited a metal, semi-metal or metal oxide from the gas phase in the presence of UV-light.

According to the instant invention, a primer layer is prepared by pretreating the surface with corona discharge etc, followed by applying photo initiators or a mixture containing photo initiators and monomers or oligomers containing ethylenically unsaturated groups, and then this layer is cured by irradiation. Onto this irradiated primer layer is deposited a metal, semi-metal or metal oxide from the gas phase which deposition may occur in the presence of UV-light.

Applicants respectfully submit that the processing steps of the instantly amended claims, in particular the radiative curing of the primer layer before metal, semi-metal or metal oxide deposition, are different from those of Bauer and no anticipation exists. Applicants therefore submit that the rejections of claims 1-6, 8-11 and 21 under 35 USC 102(b) over Bauer, US 6,548,121 are addressed and are overcome and kindly ask that the rejections be withdrawn.

Claims 11-13 and 15 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Bauer, US 6,548,121.

Claims 7, 14, and 16 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Bauer, US 6,548,121 above in view of Kohler US 6,251,963 which teaches using a solvent with photoinitiators.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Applicants refer to the discussion above wherein Bauer lacks the step of the instant invention wherein the primer layer is cured by irradiation before the deposition of the metal, semi-metal or metal oxide. This step is also absent from Kohler. Applicants therefore submit that the art does not meet the limitations of the instant claims or direct one to the steps of the instant invention, nor does the art suggest to one the value of this additional step.

Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the rejections of claims 11-13 and 15 under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Bauer, US 6,548,121 and the rejections of claims 7, 14 and 16 under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Bauer, US 6,548,121 in view of Kohler US 6,251,963 are addressed and are overcome and kindly ask that the rejections be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 3-6, 8, 9, 11-13, 15, 17, and 21 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Lin US 6,153,503 in view of Bauer, US 6,548,121 above; Kohler US 6,251,963 is added to reject claims 7, 14 and 16.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Applicants respectfully point out that Lin does not prepare the product of the instant invention. The instant invention provides a substrate upon which a strongly adhering coating of primer layer and metal, half-metal or metal oxide is formed. In Lin, there is no "primer layer", strongly adhering or otherwise, there is instead an easily removed masking layer, referred to by Lin as a "barrier layer". The substrate produced in Lin has metal directly deposited onto the substrate surface. The masking layer and any metal thereon are removed. Applicants respectfully submit that one skilled in the art would readily recognize that this temporary layer of Lin is not encompassed by Applicants adherent coating.

Applicants therefore respectfully disagree with the statements in the present Action, bottom of page 11, that one could combine the method of Lin with Bauer to produce an adherent coating as Lin clearly teaches that the adherent metal coating involves a metal deposited directly on a substrate and specifically teaches that metal deposited on a pre-applied layer is readily removed.

While it may be overstating the case to say that Lin explicitly teaches away from the invention, the pre-layer of Lin and Bauer are explicitly applied for directly opposed purposes.

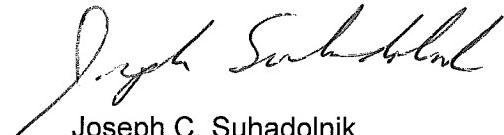
Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the rejections of claims 1, 3-6, 8, 9, 11-13, 15, 17, and 21 under 35 USC 103(a) over Lin US 6,153,503 in view of Bauer, US 6,548,121 and the rejections of claims 7, 14 and 16 under 35 USC 103(a) over Lin US 6,153,503 in view of Bauer and Kohler US 6,251,963 are addressed and are overcome and kindly ask that the rejections be withdrawn.

Claims 1-17 are rejected under the doctrine of obviousness type double patenting over US Appl No. 10/566,609 and a combination of US Appl No. 10/556,609 and US 6,548,121. A terminal disclaimer over US Appl No. 10/556,609 is enclosed. Applicants therefore kindly ask that the obviousness type double patenting rejections be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully submit that all rejections are addressed and are overcome and kindly ask that they be withdrawn and claims 1-15, 21 be found allowable. Applicants also kindly ask that upon finding said claims allowable, the Examiner rejoin claims 19 and 20 as directed to a novel product produced by the novel processes of claim 1 and 2 and find claims 19 and 20 also allowable.

In the event that minor amendments will further prosecution, Applicants request that the examiner contact the undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosed: Terminal disclaimer over US Appl No. 10/556,609